

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

**USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office**

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**Weather:** The week had a mix of sunshine and rain, with temperatures starting to warm. Average temperatures were about 50 degrees, but still 2.5 degrees below normal. Low temperatures ranged from 17 degrees in Christmas Valley to 42 degrees in Crescent City. High temperatures ranged from 56 degrees in Crescent City to 84 degrees in Grants Pass. Thirty-eight of the forty-three stations reported measurable precipitation, but only four reported more than an inch. Average of precipitation among all stations was 0.38 inches, with Detroit Lake reporting the most at 1.26 inches.

**Field Crops:** Fieldwork was limited due to continued low temperatures and wet conditions. Some areas were about 2 weeks behind, when compared to an average season. Willamette Valley winter wheat was progressing well and could be better than average. Some planting continued around the state for spring seeded grain crops. Spring wheat planting was finally wrapping up in the Willamette Valley. Grass seed crops were heading and Malheur County potato planting was about 50 percent complete.

**Vegetables:** Greenhouses were busy with a lot of vegetable plants being shipped and ground preparation was underway with some plantings started in Jackson County. In Linn and Benton

counties, the radish crops were in full bloom. Not much vegetable plantings in Washington County due to the cold, wet weather.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Reports from across the State highlighted good weather for pollinating fruit trees. Wasco County reported that bees had been active in the orchard and late blooming cherry varieties were at full bloom. Blooming was complete or nearly complete throughout the State. Although the drier days were quite beneficial, traffic for spraying was still not the best for the soil since orchard floors were still quite wet. Lane County reported that hazelnut orchards were at full leaf stage with maintenance flail mowing being conducted. Hazelnut growers were applying sprays for blight.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Greenhouses were ready with vegetable and decorative plants for shipping. Nurseries were still selling potted plants, some bare root, and balled burlap stock.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** The drier days and warmer temperatures were needed to help pasture growth. Livestock looked healthy on the green pastures. Ranchers were moving livestock. Calves, lambs, kids, and foals were out with their mothers.

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 05/08/11**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	3	69	28
Subsoil	0	3	69	28

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 05/08/11**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	2	17	59	22
Range and pasture	1	7	34	51	7

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 05/08/11**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	80	75	91	92
Barley emerged	58	54	77	70
Spring wheat planted	88	80	96	95
Spring wheat emerged	47	37	86	77
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.0	3.4	4.7	5.3

## Western Oregon

**CLACKAMAS:** Six dry days this week, some started with frost but a much needed change from continual precipitation. Most spring wheat was finally planted. Pastures were growing rapidly, and fruit trees were done blooming.

**COOS/CURRY:** Low temperatures were slightly below the 5-year average in both Bandon (Coos Co.) and in Brookings (southern Curry). High temperatures through the week were about 3 to 6 degrees below the 5-year average in both southern Curry, and Coos. Heaviest precipitation was on Saturday for both counties, with scattered showers on Sunday. Producers continued to move more cattle onto the bottoms. Water level remained up in the Coquille bottom, and even hillside pastures remained relatively wet. There were 5 days suitable for field work during the period. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 39.89 degrees, 0.4 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 59.24 degrees, 3.65 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.32 inches, which is 0.33 inches below the 5-year average for the week. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 49.35 inches, 2.54 inches below the 5-year average. Average precipitation through the month of April is 52.85 inches. Brookings (Southern Curry): Low temperature for the period was 42.46 degrees, 0.51 degrees below the 5-year average. High temperature for the period was 70.5 degrees, 5.11 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.22 inches, compared to a 5-year average of 0.89 inches. Weather year 2011 (began 10/1/2010) precipitation stands at 81.56 inches, 6.35 inches above the 5-year average. Historical average precipitation through April is 64.54 inches.

**DOUGLAS:** A drier week allowed some excess water to drain from fields. It was still too wet to cultivate soils. Farmers did go into orchards in some locations to spray fungicides, although the traffic was not good for the soil. We had 3-4 days with no rain and sun, good pollination weather for cherries, blueberries, and apples.

**JACKSON:** The couple of warm days this week really helped the field crops, hay fields, and pastures. Some apple trees were still in bloom. Pears were mostly done with bloom and getting sprayed before closure is done. Peaches were finished with bloom, and started growth, so some cover sprays were being applied. Other orchards were also sprayed this week. With the couple of warm days ground preparation for vegetables was under way, and some planting was started. Greenhouses were ready with lots of good vegetable and decorative plants being shipped. Nurseries were still selling potted, some bare root, and balled burlaped stock. Most livestock were out on good green pastures. A lot of spring calves, lambs, and kid goats were in the fields with their mothers. Some foals were also in horse pastures. Most livestock looked quite good. A couple of good days this week for outdoor work, some moving livestock, and others doing some field preparation. Temperatures rose to near 80 degrees this week.

**JOSEPHINE:** Overnight temperatures were in the 30-40 degree range, and daytime temperatures were in the 45-75 degree range. No killing frosts reported this week. Traces of rain fall during the week, but not really a measurable amount. The lack of precipitation and the warmer temperatures this week was not the most beneficial. Blustery winds throughout the week caused soils and plants to dry out very

quickly. Crops sensitive to frost received protection because of the unsettled temperatures. Animals were all looking good, and pastures were holding up well. Hay fields were not under irrigation and haying will be late this year. Nurseries were playing catch up.

**LANE:** Weather was mixed for the south Valley this last week with rain early in the week turning to dryer conditions near the end of the week. Most producers were able to keep up on herbicide applications. Great weather for pollinating fruit trees this week. Apples, cherries, and pears were looking good. Plum and peach growers had to wait to see how much pollination happened. There may have been some freeze damage or lack of pollination. Blueberries and strawberries were blooming. The center of some strawberry blooms were brown and black due to freeze damage. A lot of bees were reported to be out. Hazelnut orchards were at full leaf stage with maintenance flail mowing being conducted. The soil was good to till if done before the next rain storm. Ground preparations and planting of annual row crops were in full swing. Some row crops were being planted, but late frosts and low soil temperatures were making germination difficult. Winter wheat crop looked like it could be better than average this year. Winter wheat on heavier soil types was showing signs of stress from over inundation of water and lack of soil temperature. Some spring wheat has been replanted and was just now emerging.

**LINN/BENTON:** Winter wheat throughout the Willamette Valley had been looking pretty good this year. A few of the fields were showing water stress in the lower spots, and some striped rust was also starting to show. Fescue and orchard grass seed crops started to shoot up seed heads. The radish crops were in full bloom, and the meadowfoam crop was looking good this week. The weather this past week has been good enough to allow farmers to get out and get some of the fungicides applied.

**MARION:** Breaks in the weather and warmer temperatures were welcomed. Stripe rust in wheat was still active. Wheat flag leaves started to show. Early grass seed crops were heading out.

**WASHINGTON:** More fields were being tilled. Irrigation systems on newly planted raspberry fields were being observed. Clover and alfalfa growth was good, and wheat was not showing stress except in low, poorly drained areas. Strawberries, apples, and Asian pears were all blooming. Not much vegetable planting took place because it was still too cold and wet. Greenhouses and nurseries were waiting for temperatures to warm. Livestock were eating well on rotational pastures. High 59.4, low 43.7, rainfall 0.35 inches.

**YAMHILL:** Spring wheat and oat planting was reported this week. Mustard seed was in full bloom. Winter wheat was 18-24 inches in height. Red clover and second plus alfalfa were 12-18 inches. Warmer weather was helping with growth. Some sweet cherries were still in bloom. There were hopes that the few warm days last week were enough for the bees to do their job. This weekend was nicer than expected with more sun breaks and less steady rain. There was quite a down pour in the McMinnville area on Sunday afternoon, but it was short lived. Cherries at the higher elevations were blooming this week, while the Valley floor cherries were at petal fall stage. Hazelnut growers were applying sprays for Eastern Filbert Blight.

## Eastern Oregon

**GILLIAM:** An intense Sunday thunderstorm in Condon included hail and rain.

**GRANT:** A couple of warm days started grass to grow but was short lived as more moist cold days were back. Growth of range grasses was slow.

**HARNEY:** Cool conditions once again largely stifled much alfalfa and meadow hay growth. Range and pasture grasses were similarly experiencing retarded growth due to cool temperatures. Drier conditions allowed some field work throughout parts of the County. Most cattle were grazing rangeland pastures offering high quality, albeit lower-than-normal quantity, forage.

**HOOD RIVER:** Variable conditions prevailed through the week. Minimum temperatures dipped into critical ranges for developing fruit flower buds on May 1 and 4 with widespread frost protection. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear past full bloom (WSU stage 7); Red Delicious apple between first bloom and full bloom (WSU stages 7&8); Bing cherry past full bloom (WSU stage 8); Pinot noir grape at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 5.

**KLAMATH:** Temperatures were near the 70's for the week. Irrigation had started. Some row crops and grains were planted. Alfalfa started to show some signs of growth.

**LAKE:** Warmer day time temperatures had helped to improve pasture conditions. Irrigation had started in portions of the County.

**MALHEUR:** High temperatures were about 5 degrees to 10 degrees below the normal of 68 degrees. Low temperatures were about 5 degrees above the normal of 35 degrees to 45 degrees. Scattered showers still hung around with 0.15 inches of rain for the week. Planting of spring grain, sugar beets, and onions finished with the possible exception of straggler fields. Potato plantings were about 50 percent or more done. Irrigation was in use on all fields and pastures. High elevation grass range still needed warmer weather for more growth. Range conditions and crop plantings were generally about 2 weeks behind normal but about in line with last year at this time. Many farmers were starting to get worried about the low temperatures.

**UMATILLA:** There was significant rainfall on Saturday May 7.

**UNION/BAKER:** Spring field work and seeding slowly progressing with wet soil profiles, cold temperatures, and precipitation late this week. Like most areas, the area is about 2 weeks behind a "typical" season. Tractors were out in the fields planting.

**WALLOWA:** Warmer weather had helped producers work up their fields and some seeding done. Snowpack levels had set a record for this time of year.

**WASCO:** Partly cloudy, a little breezy, and a little warmer, mostly 60 degrees to 65 degrees all week. Rain at the beginning of the week was replaced with slightly warmer and fair weather starting mid-week. Late blooming cherry varieties, such as Regina, were at full bloom. Bees had been active in the orchard so hopefully will get a good fruit set on the late blooming varieties as well as those that bloomed last week.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 8, 2011 (as of 11:00 am) <sup>1</sup>**

Station	Air temperature <sup>2</sup>				Growing degree days <sup>3</sup>		Last week precip. <sup>4</sup>			Season cum. precipitation <sup>5</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Days <sup>7</sup>	Total inches	DFN <sup>6</sup>	Pct. normal	Days <sup>7</sup>
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria	34	62	49	-2	1	-13	1.18	0.42	6	76.77	17.39	129	180
Bandon <sup>8</sup>	40	59	50	-2	2	-12	0.32	-0.40	4	51.15	-2.94	95	167
Crescent City	42	56	50	-3	2	-19	0.28	-0.49	2	58.69	-1.78	97	133
Florence	35	64	49	-3	-	-14	0.88	-0.05	4	72.64	3.47	105	173
North Bend	39	59	50	-3	1	-18	0.43	-0.33	4	44.35	-13.92	76	123
Tillamook	32	64	50	+1	6	-2	1.10	0.02	6	74.42	-4.44	94	165
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>8</sup>	39	71	52	-1	16	-12	0.58	0.05	5	46.23	10.06	128	163
Corvallis	39	68	52	-2	14	-10	0.80	0.31	5	40.99	2.30	106	165
Detroit Lake <sup>8</sup>	32	73	47	+0	3	-4	1.26	0.44	5	93.00	32.22	153	170
Eugene	35	68	51	-3	12	-18	0.51	-0.03	3	35.62	-9.19	79	130
Hillsboro	36	70	51	-2	11	-16	0.63	0.23	5	36.41	3.00	109	151
McMinnville	37	71	52	-3	13	-17	0.51	0.03	6	41.08	1.47	104	152
Portland	41	70	54	-2	28	-8	1.05	0.56	6	43.61	12.01	138	152
Salem	38	70	53	+0	19	-3	0.45	0.02	5	43.00	7.88	122	147
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	34	84	57	+0	48	-1	-	-0.28	-	36.59	7.64	126	121
Medford	37	81	56	+1	43	+1	0.02	-0.25	1	18.45	1.64	110	96
Roseburg	39	76	55	+0	34	-4	0.35	-0.04	3	32.58	2.78	109	135
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	28	66	47	-2	6	-5	0.28	0.00	4	14.39	3.41	131	112
Echo <sup>8</sup>	31	71	52	-5	19	-29	0.14	-0.02	2	10.30	2.87	139	100
Heppner	33	68	50	-4	12	-16	0.21	-0.12	3	13.16	2.26	121	108
Hermiston	29	72	52	-5	20	-28	0.18	0.02	2	10.63	3.20	143	95
Madras <sup>8</sup>	27	70	48	-4	4	-18	0.13	-0.01	2	8.98	0.93	112	91
Moro	28	66	48	-4	8	-9	0.24	0.10	3	12.65	3.51	138	86
Parkdale <sup>8</sup>	30	65	47	-7	-	-30	0.23	0.00	5	43.84	15.23	153	146
Pendleton	32	68	51	-5	10	-30	0.35	0.09	2	13.58	3.77	138	104
Prairie City <sup>8</sup>	27	70	48	-4	4	-18	0.13	-0.01	2	8.98	0.93	112	91
The Dalles	35	73	55	+4	36	+14	0.06	-0.08	1	12.34	1.74	116	100
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>8</sup>	33	67	49	+3	8	+1	-	-0.21	-	15.69	2.16	116	89
Bend	22	72	46	-2	6	-1	-	-0.14	-	5.98	-3.18	65	46
Burns	22	70	46	-3	-	-14	0.05	-0.16	1	11.47	4.14	156	97
Christmas Valley <sup>8</sup>	17	69	45	-7	-	-21	0.04	-0.17	2	8.62	-0.92	90	108
Klamath Falls	24	70	48	-3	2	-13	-	-0.14	-	9.45	-1.71	85	72
Klamath Falls <sup>8</sup>	24	70	48	-2	7	-8	0.01	-0.13	1	11.84	0.68	106	100
Lakeview	23	67	45	-3	-	-14	0.02	-0.26	2	13.95	1.49	112	105
Lorella <sup>8</sup>	22	72	47	-4	-	-15	0.10	-0.04	3	12.12	0.96	109	97
Redmond	25	74	47	-2	1	-11	0.07	-0.07	1	8.49	2.20	135	72
Worden <sup>8</sup>	26	70	47	-3	4	-11	-	-0.14	-	11.29	0.13	101	85
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	21	68	46	-4	4	-10	0.19	-0.04	4	8.63	1.66	124	95
Joseph	29	64	44	-1	-	+0	0.38	-0.04	2	10.87	-8.75	55	99
La Grande	28	66	49	-3	10	-11	0.30	-0.05	4	10.87	-2.44	82	103
Union	29	66	48	-3	3	-11	0.43	0.08	4	14.99	5.56	159	121
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	30	74	52	-5	23	-30	0.16	0.02	3	9.26	1.51	119	78
Rome	23	75	49	-4	12	-16	0.31	0.10	2	10.96	5.25	192	76

<sup>1</sup> Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2011: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

<sup>2</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>3</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

<sup>4</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>5</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normal period).

<sup>7</sup> Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

<sup>8</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.